

**SITUATION REPORT NO. 41**  
**INCIDENT NO. 97-015**  
**DATE: May 16, 1997      TIME: 1:00 P.M.**

TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer  
State Capitol  
Bismarck, ND 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Spring flood statewide.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: No change from previous reports.
3. DAMAGES: The Red River at Grand Forks is expected to fall below flood stage this weekend and by the middle of next week at Drayton and Pembina. The river at Grand Forks was at 32.13 feet on May 16; flood stage is 28 feet. At Drayton, the river measured 40.06 feet; flood stage is 32 feet. The river at Pembina has dropped to 49.65 feet; flood stage is 42 feet.

Meanwhile, inflows into Devils Lake pushed the level to 1,441.12 feet MSL on May 16. The Ramsey County Emergency Manager reported that the Woods-Rutten Road has been closed for five days for repair work to culverts.

An assessment by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) indicates that 450 residential fuel oil tanks were damaged by flooding and had released fuel oil into basements. The EPA also reports that some flooded homes and businesses are showing mold and fungal growth, posing a biological threat to residents and response workers.

Approximately 2,000 Grand Forks customers remain without electrical service, including 700 living in major flood-damaged areas where service may never be restored. Approximately 7,400 customers are without natural gas service.

Jamestown and Stutsman County officials are concerned flash flooding could occur if the area receives a measurable amount of rain in a short period of time. Combined daily releases of 1,750 cubic feet per second (cfs) from Jamestown and Pipestem Dam are keeping the James River full.

In Towner County, officials have documented 136 road sites that are either washed out or inundated. Approximately 20 families are using planks to reach their vehicles.

More than 80,000 acres in Walsh County may not be planted this year because of flooding, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture County Emergency Board officials. Flooding has eroded croplands and river banks. In addition, this past week's light rain, snow and gusty winds have caused problems with road washouts. Flooded roads have isolated at least two farmsteads from emergency services. Eight of the county's 13 cities report flood-related damages.

4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: No change from previous reports.

STATE: No change from previous reports.

FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: The Salvation Army, in partnership with Northwest Airlines, will support cleanup efforts this weekend in Grand Forks with 500 volunteers. Northwest Airlines is donating two flights to Grand Forks to transport volunteers. On May 17, the Bates County Cattlemen Association from Kansas City, MO, will hold a massive barbecue dinner for Grand Forks and East Grand Forks residents at the Salvation Army's Grand Forks distribution center. The Salvation Army is operating five mobile feeding units in the Grand Forks area and warehouse/distribution centers in the Grand Forks, Devils Lake and Fargo areas.

The American Red Cross (ARC) received 96 new cases of Emergency Assistance for a cumulative of 7,494 cases. Of those cases, 6,440 were closed with financial assistance and 386 with services. To date, ARC Health Services staff has conducted 1,260 assessments, and the Mental Health staff has visited 9,240 people.

6. MAJOR ACTIONS: On May 6, Governor Schafer issued an Executive Order, effective until July 1, suspending statutes and administrative rules or orders to speed recovery efforts. The suspensions apply to Pembina, Walsh, Grand Forks, Traill, Cass and Richland Counties. Suspended statutes deal with contracting, bidding, licensing and public notices.

Civil Air Patrol (CAP) air crews with five aircraft conducted a grid search on May 15 for a North Dakota couple last seen on April 19 at Stephen, MN. The missing couple had been enroute home to Grafton. Since March 20, CAP pilots have logged 287 hours to assist with flood response and recovery work.

The University of North Dakota (UND) has made available 310 dormitory beds to flood-displaced people. In addition, 40 travel trailers are occupied by flood evacuees. To date, the Disaster Housing program has received 22 mobile homes and 102 travel trailers. These housing alternatives have significantly reduced the number of people relying on public shelters for housing.

The EPA is assisting state and local public health officials with assessment of mold growth in homes. The EPA also has approximately 10 teams using absorbent pads and vacuum trucks to clean up spilled oil. In addition, Grand Forks is using water hose lines to provide potable water for approximately 50 homes within two areas, a three-block area of Park Drive and a two-block loop at 18th and 19th Avenues.

The N.D. Army National Guard will transport 5,000 filled sandbags from Grand Forks to Spirit Lake Reservation.

The Secretary of State and the Attorney General have revised plans for the “one-stop” shop in Grand Forks for transient merchant’s and contractor’s licenses. The operation, which had been scheduled to close today, will be open May 19, 20, 21, 28, 29, and 30. Hours are from 8:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m.

Hazard Mitigation and Long Term Recovery applicant briefings and workshops for local officials will be conducted by state and federal officials May 19-22 and May 27-28. Meetings will be held from 9:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. The schedule is as follows:

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Locations</b>
May 20	Ramsey County Courthouse, Devils Lake
May 21	National Guard Armory Complex, Grand Forks
May 22	Armed Forces Reserve Center, Fargo
May 27	Stutsman County Law Enforcement Center, Jamestown
May 28	Raymond J. Bohn Memorial Armory, Bismarck

As of May 16, the State/Federal Disaster Field Office (DFO) received 209 Notice of Interest applications for participation in the Public Assistance program. Applicants include: 42 counties; 115 cities; 12 electrical cooperatives; four tribal governments; eight state agencies; nine park districts; six water districts; three universities, nine public school districts; and one private nonprofit organization.

The DFO processing center has completed 277 Public Assistance Damage Survey Reports (DSRs). Of those, 85 DSRs have been obligated. State/FEMA Inspection Team Training for Public Assistance inspectors is being held May 16-17. Inspections will begin in eastern North Dakota on May 19.

Disaster Recovery Centers (DRCs) are scheduled to open at 11 northeast North Dakota locations during the next three weeks. The DRCs, staffed by state and federal disaster relief workers, will be open from 9:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. The dates and schedules are as follows:

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Locations</b>
May 19-20	Cooperstown City Hall
May 19-20	National Guard Armory, Lisbon
May 21-22	The former Business Service Building, Forman
May 21-24	Fort Totten Community Center
May 23-24	Farm Service Agency Building, Ellendale
May 27-29	Ramsey County Courthouse, Devils Lake
May 27-28	Wishek City Hall
May 29-31	Stutsman County Law Enforcement Center, Jamestown
May 30-31	Belcourt (location to be announced)
June 2	American Legion Hall, Rolette
June 3-4	Cavalier County Courthouse meeting room, Langdon

More than 31,760 North Dakotans have registered damages with the National Teleregistration Center. Of those applicants, 18,097 have received \$19,635,347 in Disaster Housing assistance. The Individual and Family Grant program has received 13,249 applications. To date, the program staff has approved 358 applications for a \$315,917 in grants. The Small Business Administration (SBA) has received 4,512 loan applications. Of these, 766 have been approved for a total of \$13,087,300 in loans. The SBA has 60 employees working in Grand Forks, including 42 loss verifiers and 18 loan officers.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No change from previous reports.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No change from previous reports.
9. OTHER: Web site addresses for flood recovery information include:

N.D. Division of Emergency Management: <http://www.state.nd.us/dem>

N.D. League of Cities: <http://www.ndlc.org>

N.D. State Water Commission: <http://water.swc.state.nd.us>

N.D. Department of Agriculture: <http://www.state.nd.us/agr/>

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: <http://www.ncs-wc.usace.army.mil>

U.S. Geological Survey: <http://srv1dndbnk.cr.usgs.gov/public/>

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Douglas C. Friez, State Director